

## Policy Council

5/20/25

The May Policy Council meeting was held via Zoom. Those participating: Dirsa (EHS), Kamra (EHS), Stephanie (Cresco), Amy (Decorah), Jordan (Guttenberg), Alex (Monona), Juana (New Hampton), Kerry (New Hampton), Zachary (Oelwein), Luanne (Oelwein), Brittany (Waverly), Ashley (West Union), Sharon Burke, Rachelle Smith, and Denise Tapscott (staff).

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Kerry. A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Alex and seconded by Zach. The motion carried.

### Director's Report

*Staff Changes:* Abbey Norby, Decorah Teacher, has resigned. We had internal interest in this position and an offer has been extended. Olivia Cain has accepted one of the Co-Teacher float positions and we are holding interviews for the other float position next week.

*Enrollment:* Early Head Start is fully enrolled. Head Start has a couple of openings but we no longer need to accept new children when we are within 30 days of the end of the school year. On the Enrollment report, Cresco, Postville A & CD, and Waverly were below the 85% attendance level due to family vacations, illness, and transportation issues.

*Budget:* The Head Start and Early Head Start April budget summaries were reviewed. Both programs are on track for this time of the year. We will be focusing on in-kind this year as much of our state money for non-federal match has been eliminated.

*Applications:* The summary of applications for the 2025-2026 school year were included in the packet. We have begun accepting applications in all classrooms. Please help us recruit by encouraging families in your communities to apply for Early Head Start and Head Start.

*Transportation Waiver:* Sharon will be submitting a waiver for both restraints and monitors on public school buses to the Regional Head Start Office. Waivers are necessary due to the cost associated with providing monitors on all buses carrying Head Start children.

*Information Memorandum:* Sharon reviewed the Information Memorandum promoting parent choice to select early care and education (ECE) providers that best meet their family's needs for their children.

*Summer Wrap Services:* The following classrooms will be open for Wrap Services through June 13th: Guttenberg, Oelwein, Postville, Waukon, Waverly, and West Union.

The April CACFP claim and credit card statements were reviewed. All were found to be in order.

### Center Reports

<b>EHS</b>	Playgroups: Decorah storytime in the park, family pictures, Sunflower Discovery Center, received funding for Farmer's Markets.
<b>EHS Home Visists</b>	Families are working on language, color identification, and large and fine motor skills at home visits.
<b>Cresco</b>	Last week we had a pizza party at the park. This week, the children made their own slime and they were able to take it home. Today is our graduation and our ice cream party. We are having a pajama party the last day.
<b>Decorah</b>	We are working on the Ready for Kindergarten study. Graduation was today.
<b>Guttenberg</b>	Wrapping up the end of the year. Lots of art work coming home.

<b>Monona</b>	We are finishing up the kindergarten study this week. Recognition is on Friday. We walked to the Butterfly Garden and Gateway Park last week. Hope to go to City Park this week. Children made May Day baskets.
<b>New Hampton</b>	We are doing summer fun! We have been going up to the kindergarten rooms to participate in their end of the year activities, including jump rope, board games, chalk the walk, playing with bubbles, and seeing their chicks hatch. In our own room, we have been working on our memory book for things that have gone on in the classroom this year, we attempted to grow plants (without any classroom windows this was challenging!), and we will be doing a glow party to end the year.
<b>Oelwein A</b>	No report
<b>Oelwein B</b>	We are learning about going to kindergarten. We have a picnic planed for Wednesday, Thursday we are having step-up day where students get to meet their teacher for next year, and Friday we are doing a Beach day with the kindergarteners.
<b>Oelwein CD</b>	We celebrated graduation, working on rhymes and patterns, and having special dress-up days.
<b>Postville A</b>	No report
<b>Postville CD</b>	We learned about bugs, watched caterpillars turn into butterflies, and let them go. For the last day of school, we are going to the park and having a picnic and field day with the kids. The kids are enjoying Pirate Dress-up Days.
<b>Waukon A</b>	No report
<b>Waverly</b>	Every day this week is a special dress up day. Monday- Pajama Day, Tuesday- Dress up as what you want to be when you grow up, Wednesday-Princess/Superhero Day, Thursday- Wear your brightest colors, Friday- Dress Comfy for our park day. The last day will be a park and picnic day.
<b>West Union</b>	Graduation was on Monday with the District preschool. Doing lots of planting.

The next meeting will be held on June 17, 2025, via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Submitted by Denise Tapscott

Approved 6/17/25